

11/11/82  
182

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT  
RON NESSEN

FROM: LES JANKA

SUBJECT: Morning Press Items

1. Alleged Anti-Semitism Letter:

FYI: Yesterday the Anti-defamation League and George Meany issued statements criticizing the letter written by a CIEP staff attorney regarding the Administration's position on anti-Arab boycott legislation, claiming the letter contained anti-semitic phrases, e. g., "certain New York interest groups."

The flap has apparently been tamped down by the issuance of a White House Statement noting the lawyer's apology, and the fact that he should not have attempted to summarize the Administration's position on such a complex issue.

Suggested Guidance: If asked, about this matter, simply refer people to the statement issued by Ed Schmults, (Attached).

2. Korea: Administration Comment on the North Korean Proposals:

Suggested Guidance: We are still studying the proposal and I have nothing more to provide you on this subject.

FYI: United States forces remain in the alert status.

3. Ambassadorial Shifts:

Q. Can you confirm the Washington Post story that Washington is considering a shift of Ambassadors between Moscow and Bonn.

A. I have no comment on that story, and if and when we are prepared to make any announcements about Ambassadorial changes, we will make them in our usual manner.

4. Egyptian Hijacking:

FYI: The President's message to Sadat has not yet been delivered, so you should stick with Tuesday's guidance should this matter come up today.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 25, 1976

Dear Dave:

We appreciated your telephone call this morning advising us of the letter written by a staff lawyer at CIEP on the Administration's Arab boycott position. The following statement represents the Administration's position on this matter:

A letter purporting to outline the Administration's position on Arab boycott legislation was brought to our attention this morning by the White House Legislative Affairs Office, as well as the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and an immediate inquiry was undertaken. The letter was written by a staff lawyer at CIEP who should not have attempted to summarize the Administration's position on a complex issue. In referring to "certain New York interest groups", the lawyer's summary and choice of words are offensive and inappropriate. He regrets his action and has apologized. The lawyer emphasized that he had not intended to offend anyone.

With best regards.

Sincerely,



Edward C. Schmults  
Deputy Counsel to the President

Mr. David A. Brody  
Director  
Washington Office  
Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith  
1640 Rhode Island Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, D. C. 20036

August 12, 1976

ANTI-ARAB BOYCOTT AMENDMENTS

Q: What is your position on the boycott provisions of the Tax Bill adopted by the Senate?

A: We have not yet had a chance to thoroughly evaluate this provision, but, in general, we do not believe that unilateral Congressional action is the appropriate means of dealing with this issue.

Last November 20, after an intensive Cabinet-level review of U. S. policy and practices in this field, the President announced a series of measures for dealing with this complex problem in a manner consistent with our basic moral principles, our laws and our economic and foreign policy interests. These measures, which are beginning to take effect, will put an end to the possibility of foreign-inspired discrimination against Americans on the basis of race, religion, sex or national origin.

We are also continuing to work with interested foreign governments and American companies to see what more can be done about aspects of the boycott issue per se, which is not easily soluble through unilateral Congressional or Executive Branch actions. Until there has been more time to assess the results of the substantial actions already taken, we must be very careful about taking additional steps, particularly since the effect might be more harmful than helpful to our objectives of freer and greater trade.